

Appl. No. 10/660,422
Amendment and Response dated July 13, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of May 7, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1. - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for generating an effective configuration for a managed product comprising:

generating a configuration object for a managed product, said configuration object specifying a configuration for a said managed product using a configuration object, said configuration object representing a certain behavior or desired functional state for a software feature of said managed product; and

generating a derived configuration object of said configuration object, said derived configuration object representing a modification to said configuration for said managed product using a derived configuration object of said configuration object,

wherein said configuration object and said derived configuration object comprise a configuration object inheritance chain; and

processing said configuration object inheritance chain using a parent-child inheritance merge process to obtain an effective configuration for said managed product,

wherein said parent-child inheritance merge process resolves collisions between elements of said configuration object and elements of said derived configuration object having the same collision detection name and merges the configuration

GUNNISON, MCKAY &
HODGSON, L.L.P.
Golden West Office Plaza
1900 Garden Road, Suite 220
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 465-0880
Fax (650) 465-0888